

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, and 9 have been amended. Claims 1-9 remain pending. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the original and other claims in this and other applications. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections are requested in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawasaki, U.S. Patent No. 5,969,828 ("Kawasaki") in view of Ito et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0128967 ("Ito"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

According to the claimed invention as embodied by claims 1-9, drawing instructions are compressed without dividing, and then, the compressed drawing instructions can be divided in the compressed state. Claim 1, for example, recites "[a]n image processing device comprising: a dividing part which divides compressed image drawing instructions into a plurality of sets of compressed image drawing instructions without decompressing them in such a manner that each set of image drawing instructions can be processed without referring to any other set of image drawing instructions." Claim 1 also recites that "the instruction dividing and distributing parts analyze whether or not the image drawing instructions transmitted from the host apparatus are those concerning an image object, and also, an area to be processed or a data amount of the image object is larger than a predetermined reference value, and, when the conditions are met, the compressed image drawing instructions are divided into a plurality of compressed image drawing instructions, and the divided image drawing instructions are distributed into the respective image production processing parts for processing the same, respectively, while, when the conditions are not met, the compressed image drawing instructions are not divided, and are transferred to the image production processing parts as they are."

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited combination does not disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention. Kawasaki teaches that, in a digital copier when image data is divided into a plurality of blocks and a plurality of decompressors are used to decompress the image data, a time required for the decompressing is reduced and a timing of printing starting can be made earlier. For this purpose, according to Kawasaki, the number of blocks in a sub-scan direction of the image data is set in a natural number of times the number of decompressors. Thereby, even when rotation of an image is carried out, printing can be carried out without halting the decompressing processing. Kawasaki relates to a copier and data obtained from scanning is to be processed, that is, all of what is processed in "images." This differs from the claimed invention. The claimed invention, on the other hand, relates to analyzing image drawing instructions. The claimed invention recites that, when processing compressed image data corresponding to image drawing instructions, the image data can be divided into a plurality of sets of image data, and thus, divided image drawing instructions can be produced without carrying out decompressing processing, and can be transferred to the image producing processing parts rapidly. Thereby, image processing can be carried out at high speed. Accordingly, Kawasaki does not disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention.

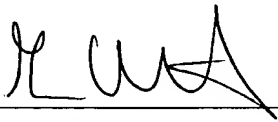
Applicants respectfully submit that Ito does nothing to rectify the deficiencies of Kawasaki. Ito is relied on as disclosing a "dividing part which divides compressed image drawing instructions into a plurality of sets of image drawing instructions." (Office Action at 5). Ito, however, does not disclose any of the above limitations. Accordingly, the combination of Kawasaki and Ito does not disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are allowable along with claim 1 for at least the reasons provided above. Claims 5-9 should also be allowable for similar, and also for other reasons. Withdrawal of all outstanding rejections is therefore requested.

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: October 30, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By  _____

Gianni Minutoli

Registration No.: 41,198
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP
1825 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006-5403
(202) 420-2200
Attorney for Applicant